



The latest study of the economic impact of INL site operations on the state demonstrate the lab's role in significantly increasing employment, personal income and economic activity in Idaho.

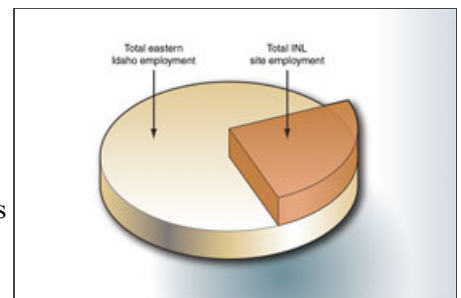
Study shows INL helps diversify, stabilize Idaho's economy

By [Marilyn Whitney](#), INL Communications and Governmental Affairs

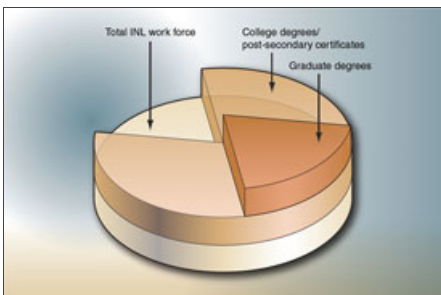
The effects of the latest economic downturn continue to ripple across Idaho and the nation, but the operations of Idaho National Laboratory provide a good-news story about the state's economy. The economic impact of INL's operations was the subject of a recently completed [comprehensive analysis](#) by [Boise State University](#).

"The continued and substantial economic activity generated by INL's facilities and operations have helped diversify and stabilize the Idaho economy and mitigate the effects of declines in other sectors of the state's economy," the BSU research team concluded. "Because of ongoing INL operations, Idaho's economy is more diverse, stable and resilient."

INL and its sister labs throughout the Department of Energy complex have long commissioned economic impact studies as a means of demonstrating accountability to local and regional stakeholders. Such studies show in hard numbers what taxpayers are getting for their investments.



INL is the second-largest employer in the state, ranking only behind state government and is, by far, the largest employer in eastern Idaho.



Nearly 80 percent of INL employees have postsecondary certificates or college degrees, and over 20 percent have graduate degrees.

Geoffrey Black, Don Holley and John Church — highly regarded economists with [BSU's College of Business and Economics](#), evaluated the effects on the Idaho economy of all cleanup, research and administrative operations at the INL site for calendar year 2009. The INL Impacts report details the results of this research and demonstrates the significant and positive effects INL operations have on the region and the entire state.

The researchers analyzed three dimensions of the lab's contributions to the state and region. The first assessed the impact of the lab's activities in eastern Idaho and the entire state on incomes, employment and the total output of goods and services. The report also measured the impacts on state and local tax revenues. Third, the study examined the social impacts of the lab and its employees on the quality of life in Idaho, including contributions to education, charitable giving and volunteerism.

Major findings of the Impacts study reveal the following:

- With 8,016 direct employees, INL site operations had the largest impact on employment in Idaho of any employer other than state government.
- The secondary effect of INL operations on employment accounted for an additional 16,133 workers, for a total of more than 24,000 Idaho jobs.
- Wages and salaries paid to INL employees accounted for more than 3.5 percent of personal income in Idaho.
- Directly and indirectly, INL annually accounted for more than \$135 million in personal income taxes, corporate income taxes, sales taxes and other taxes paid to the state of Idaho.
- Direct tax payments to the state of Idaho by INL employers and their workers exceed the cost of state-provided services.
- INL employers paid \$2.5 million to Idaho colleges and universities for their employees' continuing education.
- INL brought money into Idaho and generated additional output of more than \$3.5 billion.

The research also revealed INL's significant social impact for the state: INL employees made charitable contributions of \$33.3 million and donated 240,951 hours to a wide range of community groups and associations.

"The important contributions of INL to the quality of life in Idaho and its communities go beyond economic and fiscal impacts to the social fabric of these areas," the researchers noted. "INL employees are generous with both their time and their money, giving back to their communities through

civic, religious and local associations."

Read the full [INL Impacts report](#).

Read [Boise State University's news release](#).

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